

Connect



AVENGERS SAVING THE WORLD SADD STYLE

was a blast! The 32nd Annual SADD Conference, held November 21-23 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Convention Center in Durham, was an exciting weekend retreat. There were great speakers, powerful assemblies, enlightening workshops, good food and fun, fun, fun! On opening night, the Student Advisory Board, representing Avengers characters, did a terrific skit detailing the rules of the conference. SADD members received praise and encouragement for the heroic work they do from **Bill Daughtridge, Jr.**, secretary of the NC Department of Administration. **Bill Bryan**, deputy secretary, was also on hand to show his support for SADD. Everyone enjoyed [Motivational Media Assemblies'](#) exciting new show, "Be the One."



Avengers (Student Advisory Board) Onstage



Secretary Daughtridge made everyone feel appreciated.

(Note: Links have been inserted to serve as resources for chapter programming.)

After the opening program, there was a pizza and wing party. Then, students and advisors separated into their Avengers teams to participate in "sidekick training" and the Avengers Ultimate Challenge. The Challenge pitted teams against each other in friendly competitions of skill and speed. Student teams were Hulk, Black Widow, Captain America, Hawkeye, Thor and Iron Man. Advisors made up Team Fury. On day two, the Avenger teams attended workshops together.



Advisor Amanda Fisher (l) and student compete in the Ultimate Challenge.

Saturday morning saw everyone up bright and early for a hearty breakfast and ready to begin an active day of workshops. In Flying 101, students learned the dangers of distracted driving in an outdoor

December 2014

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Ideas? Questions? Concerns?

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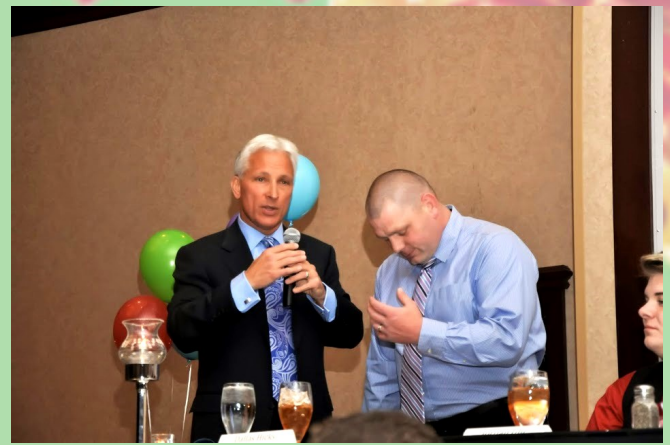
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Learning to keep their eyes on the road in Flying 101

driving activity by [Ford Driving Skills for Life](#). Heroes in Training taught about the [VIP for a VIP](#) safe driving program. Don't Fly Without Your Cape taught students how to prevent teen pregnancy and maintain healthy bodies. Students learned internet safety and bullying prevention in Don't Be a Cyber Villain. They learned how to have safe and healthy dating relationships in On the Lookout. Behind the Mask helped students learn to work together and support each other by realizing that their similarities far outweigh their differences.



David Daggett (I) and Dallas Hicks

takes to be a superhero. **Tré Frederick** of West Johnston High School in Benson received the Student of the Year award, and **Katie Thompson** of West Iredell High School in Statesville received an award for contributions beyond the call of duty to the SADD program and the conference. **Billy Essick** of First Flight High School in Kill Devil Hills received the Advisor of the Year award. Congratulations to all. They are well deserving of their recognition.



SBI Special Agent Kevin Roughton discusses the pitfalls of the Internet in Don't Be a Cyber Villain.

After Saturday morning workshops and a delicious buffet lunch, Master Trooper Richard West and Morgan Hess of Onslow County and Garrett Prince of Wake County shared their experiences about how destructive decisions behind the wheel can drastically alter the futures of teens and their families.

The Saturday evening Banquet was a gala event with table decorations by the Student Advisory Board, and everyone dressed in their finest. **David Daggett**, founder of [Safe and Sober Prom Night](#), gave the keynote address, speaking on what it



Tre Frederick (I) receives Student of the Year Award from State Coordinator Harriett Southerland.



Katie Thompson receives Extraordinary Contributions Award.



Billy Essick receives the Advisor of the Year Award.

Following the banquet, students and advisors were sporting their superhero garb at the Superhero Dance with DJ Will Oliver of Amey Entertainment. Many thanks to [SouthLight Healthcare](#), a premier provider of substance abuse treatment, for sponsoring the dance.

At the Sunday morning closing session, the Student Advisory Board and a student from each team shared their reflections on the conference. **Dallas Hicks**, 2013-14 Advisor of the Year from West Iredell High School, gave the parting keynote. He shared what advising has meant to him



Rockin' out at the Superhero Dance



Superheroes take a break from dancing to strike a pose.

and assured the students that they were indeed, superheroes. The conference ended with prize drawings, and there were plenty of prizes to go around. We especially appreciate the advisors bringing prizes for the advisor drawings. As the saying goes, "A good time was had by all!"

See more conference pictures the following links. [Volume 1](#) and [Volume 2](#).



KICKIN' IT UP A NOTCH AT SOUTH BRUNSWICK

Idea sharing at conference is already paying off for South Brunswick High School in Southport. Advisor **Theresa Lominac** reports, "We came back from the conference charged up! Our SADD Club is marching in two Christmas parades! We are using [Richlands High School advisor] Jackie Gaddy's idea of dressing up like presents with bows on our heads carrying a sign that says, 'Your Life Is a Gift-Make Good Choices!' Way to go, South Brunswick SADD! That's what The Gathering was for, to recharge your super powers!"



South Brunswick will also celebrate Lights on for Life on Friday, December 19. Local fire, EMS, police and sheriff's departments will be on campus with their lights and sirens on to encourage all staff and students to have a safe holiday. **GO COUGARS!**



Charged Up!
Ms. Lominac (2nd from left) and South Brunswick SADD



THE BEAT GOES ON AT WEST JOHNSTON



We lost one of our most energetic and active advisors when **Elizabeth Bonilla**, West Johnston High School SADD/JoCo Teen Drivers advisor, moved to Mississippi this past summer. Sometimes chapters falter after such a loss, but not this case.

New advisor **Amanda Fisher** has stepped into Ms. Bonilla's shoes, and she's filling them in a big way. You'd never know she was a rookie advisor. In addition to continuing to keep up the tradition of high activity at West Johnston, Ms. Fisher made sure her chapter would not miss coming to conference. She brought a lot of energy and enthusiasm to the conference, even representing Team Fury in the Ultimate Challenge (*photo, bottom left, page 1*). After returning from conference, she reported, "West had such a blast this weekend, and we all wore our [conference] shirts to school today!" While we still miss Ms. Bonilla, we are happy to have Amanda on board, and we consider her a great asset to the SADD program. Incidentally, Ms. Bonilla returned for a visit last month and helped the Student Advisory Board make bags for the conference. Thanks Elizabeth!

Ms. Fisher reported on the projects West Johnston has been doing the last couple of months. "During October 15-24, we held a Teen Safe Driving Week



Matthew Cherry and Abbigail Hartly portray Grim reaper and teen driver.

for our school. SADD and Joco Teen Drivers worked the whole week to promote teen safe driving with the following activities: teen safe driving announcements, a Street-Safe Driving activity, teen safe driving posters and banners, a Buckle Up relay, Pin the Paw on the Wildcat, a Buckle Up photo booth, handing out candy in homeroom, having kids sign pledges and participate in the Celebrate My Drive campaign and having a Grim Reaper Day to

symbolize how many teens we lose everyday to car crashes. At the Friday night football game, we had a balloon release to remember the ones we have lost, and we created a buckle-up themed football banner." For November, West Johnston SADD put up Thanksgiving safe driving banners and held a seat belt check event November 25th, the last day before Thanksgiving break.



WJHS Seat Belt Challenge
How fast can you make it click?



Seat Belt Police
Melanie Langness, Erick Beene, Brandon Baucom, Tre Frederick (Student of the Year) and Veronica McLean



Manning the checkpoint



Sarah and Bridget Harrison



A Creative Thanksgiving Safety Banner

Ms. Fisher shared an observation about the seat belt check that is both good and not-so-good: "All of the people who were on their phones and who didn't have their seatbelts on were adults! I was so proud of the teens!"

West Johnston SADD is already well into their December activities. They have made Christmas highway safety banners to put up around the school and wrapped "gifts" with safety message tags (*photos below*). The SADD Club is also sponsoring a Pictures with Santa event to promote good decisions and raise funds for their chapter. They are proving that teaching your peers to drive smart can be loads of fun. **GO WILDCATS!**



STARTING OUT ON THE RIGHT FOOT



J.P. Knapp Early College High School started their school year out in a different way this year. Advisor Diane Davenport said that in order for the SADD Club to be successful in reaching other students, they needed to learn to work together and accept each other. "We needed to focus on the core of our club before branching out to the rest of our school and community," said Ms. Davenport. "We did several team building activities that concluded with our attending First Flight Adventure Park's aerial ropes course in Nags Head. During Red Ribbon Week, our club partnered with the Home Depot of Kitty Hawk to 'plant the promise.' Home Depot donated 1000 flower bulbs and over 50 planting tools, and they were on site and ready to assist! About 80 students took the pledge to live a drug-free life, and they symbolized this by planting the bulbs. In the spring, when the flowers bloom, they will serve as a reminder of just 'how beautiful life can be drug free!'"

Right: Nate Corbitt and Mylie Moniz plant flower bulbs under the watchful eye of the Home Depot garden supervisor.

Below: Promise Planters; many wearing red in commemoration of Red Ribbon Week





In December, J.P. Knapp SADD will serve at their county's holiday dinner, a meal available to anyone who wouldn't otherwise have a Christmas dinner. The dinner also features activities such as a visit by Santa, crafts, carols for the kids and donated clothing for parents to take if needed.



The Davenports (*standing*) receive an ovation at the banquet.



Top
Strapped and
tied and
ready for the
ropes
Bring it!

"Our SADD club was asked to run the kids' craft table and games," said Ms. Davenport. "We will be coloring and making bird feeders and candy canes as well as playing the snowman freeze and some games."

J.P. Knapp SADD has already planned their January project. They will conduct a pen pal project with area elementary schools. We look forward to hearing how it went.



Center
**Terrell
Powell**
I got this!

Bottom
**Phoebe
Lease**
Hey! I'm a
girl. I can do
everything!

If you attended the conference, you might remember the announcement that the Davenport's sixth wedding anniversary fell on conference weekend. Ms. Davenport said that after a lot of thought and talking with her husband, they decided that they did not want the students to miss the opportunity to attend the conference. In order for them to be together on their anniversary, Mr. Davenport decided to come as a chaperone. We appreciate the caring of the Davenports and their dedication to the students. NC SADD wishes them many more years of health and happiness. **GO SPARTANS!**

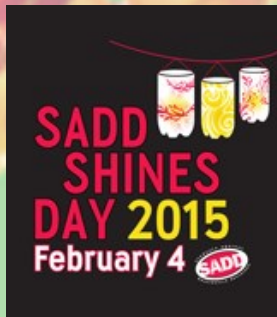


WHAT'S GOING ON?

We want to know about your chapter activities so we can highlight the extraordinary work our youth are doing. There is nothing too trivial. Call or email the state coordinator so your chapter can be featured. Contact information is in the Table of Contents on page 1.

SADD MONTHLY CALENDAR

The Table of Contents for this issue includes both the December and January calendars. The upcoming month is included to give chapters more advance notice of campaigns and activities.



The monthly calendar has activities and events that chapters across the country can work on at the same time. However, your chapter is at

liberty to focus on additional activities that fit the interests and needs of your school and community. Although some activities have specific dates, most can be conducted anytime during the year. The full SADD calendar may also be accessed at:

<http://www.sadd.org/calendar.htm>.



THANK YOU KATIE AND TRE'!

SADD extends special thanks to Katie Thompson of West Iredell High School for the excellent work she did in making signs and posters for the conference. The Avenger signs in the first picture and the SADD selfie station are just two excellent examples of the many signs and banners that she made for the conference. In fact, Katie made all the signs to decorate the ball-room, with the exception of the one in the bottom photo. That one was made by Tré Frederick of West Johnston High School.



The Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office wishes all our students and advisors a wonderful Christmas season and the best of health, happiness and prosperity in 2015!